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of the necessaries of life, are certainly the effects of our former conduct. It appears, under the present existing circumstances, that the inhabitants of Ireland, in their relative situations, will be injured. The failure of the last crop, not only of flax, but also of corn, is seen and felt by all, and its effects, at a few months distance, will certainly be worse. Many thousands of men and women will be idle for want of materials to work upon, if a foreign supply be not speedily procured. The scarcity of flax, notwithstanding the encouragement given by Government, in erecting machines for converting this valuable commodity into ropes, for the use of the Navy, is a serious grievance under which the peasantry of this kingdom at present labour. Another public grievance is the dearth and scarcity of timber, whereby all repairs and improvements in building are greatly retarded, and without a speedy supply must in a great measure be suspended altogether. While the present war continues we can expect no flaxseed in the ensuing spring; and how the poor industrious inhabitants of Ireland will be able to pay their rents, tythes, and taxes, is a matter of serious consideration. Another effect of the war is scarcity of gold. For several years past the blood and treasure of these kingdoms have been wasting like snow on a rock, beneath the meridian sun. How many millions of money have been spent in subsidizing the different Powers of Europe, which have proved in a great measure abortive of restoring peace and harmony to Europe! How much has been also spent in fitting out expeditions, which have often failed as to their intention, notwithstanding the superior skill and conduct of their leaders. How many thousands of lives have been lost in these enterprizes, spreading calamity and distress over many a domestic circle. When we consider how many strenuous efforts we have made towards the reduction of the French Ruler, not sparing our blood and treasure, nor even our character; and at the same time observe how ineffectual all these endeavours have been, it becomes us to apply to the only remedy, *peace*.

If we duly weigh the foregoing considerations, with many more not mentioned, I presume it will appear to be our duty, in our several stations, whether high or low, from the peasant to the rulers of counties and districts, to petition the Parliament to procure for us the blessings of peace. We are informed by the sacred penman, that an æra speedily will arrive, when nation shall not rise up against nation, nor learn the cursed art of war; when they shall beat their swords into plough shares, and their spears into pruning-hooks. We are also informed, that blessed are the peace-makers, for they shall be called the children of God.

Dec. 12, 1808. B. A.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

PERMIT me to add a few concise remarks (from the works of a well-known author) to those of your ingenious Correspondent, who signs himself "A Friend," in your valuable Magazine for last month, on the subject of "Duelling;" which, as a punishment, is absurd; because, it is an equal chance whether the punishment fall upon the offender, or the person offended. Nor is it much better as a reparation; it being difficult to explain in what the satisfaction consists, or how it tends to undo the injury, or to afford a compensation for the damage already sustained.

"Murder is forbidden, and wherever human life is deliberately taken away, otherwise than by public authority, there is murder. If unauthorized laws of honour be allowed to create exceptions to divine prohibitions, there is an end to all morality, as founded on the will of the Deity, and the obligation of every duty may at one time or other be discharged by the caprice and fluctuations of fashion. But a sense of shame is so much torture, and no relief presents itself otherwise than by an attempt upon the life of our adversary." What then? the distresses which men suffer by the want of money is oftentimes extreme, and no resource can be discovered but that of removing the life, which stands between the distressed person and his inheritance.

"The motive in this case is as urgent, and the means much the same as in the former, yet this case finds no advocate.

"Take away the circumstance of the duellist's exposing his own life, and it becomes assassination; add this circumstance, and what difference does it make? None but this, that fewer perhaps, will imitate the example, and human life will be more safe, when it cannot be attacked without equal danger to the aggressor's own.

"Public opinion is not easily controlled by civil institutions; for which reason I question whether any regulations can be contrived of sufficient force to suppress or change the rule of honour, which stigmatizes all scruples about duelling, with the reproach of cowardice. The insufficiency of redress which the law of the land affords for those injuries which chiefly affect a man's sensibility and reputation, tempts many to redress themselves. Prosecutions for such offences, by the trifling damages that are received, serve only to make the sufferer more ridiculous. This ought to be remedied.

"For the army, where the point of honour is cultivated with exquisite attention and refinement, I would establish *a court of honour*, with a power of awarding those submissions and acknowledgments, which it is generally the purpose of a challenge to obtain, and it might grow into a fashion with persons of rank of all professions, to refer their quarrels to this tribunal.

"But if this should fail, rather than let such a barbarous custom continue amongst us, I would have recourse to the law established by Frederick the Great; "I would make the champions continue the contest till one of them was killed, and I would hang the survivor."

A FRIEND TO SOCIETY.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

A MIRROR FOR REPRESENTATIVES.

ON looking over some old papers lately, I met with the following address of the late William Brownlow, to the freeholders of the county of Armagh. I well remember his manner of acting at the election which ensued. He made no canvass, and brought up no tallies, while the voters for the two rival candidates, between whom the contest lay, agreed in giving to him their suffrages. He sat in a dignified manner, receiving from both sides, the homage due to virtue, and his long faithful services, of which he says no more than what was strictly due in this Address. I remember it was objected by some little minds at the time, that he acted with too much hauteur on the occasion, but it was the conscious dignity of virtue, and a just reliance on his integrity. I revive the circumstance now, as an attempt to fan the embers of that spirit of independence which is in danger of becoming extinct. Certain untoward circumstances, have caused the spirit of virtuous independence to become unfashionable. I wish for its revival as connected with the best interests of man. Here is an excellent lesson for Representatives, that they in like manner may surrender their trust, supported by a sense of conscious rectitude. But alas! how few are qualified to act a similar part. Many of them are too fond of the favours of the crown, or of the minister, to be faithful servants to the people, and thus the popular branch of our Constitution is in some danger of being lost.

K.

"TO THE FREEHOLDERS OF THE COUNTY OF ARMAGH,

"*Gentlemen*,

"I HAVE now served you six-and-thirty years, and can with a safe conscience assert, that I never in that time attempted to apply the sacred trust you reposed in me to my own interest or advantage in any shape whatever, but acted with constant diligence and attention to the utmost of my power for the public service. Relying upon this, and confident from the very honourable marks of approbation I had at several times received, that my proffer of service would be as pleasing to you as it was to myself, I again tendered it; though, had I consulted only my ease, retirement would have better suited me. I cannot suppose that at my time of life and length of service you could require or expect personal solicitation; I am not equal to the fatigue; and indeed what had I to solicit, but a farther opportunity to serve you and the public, as far as I was able, at the expense of much labour and assiduity? for certainly my own private advantage was in no sort concerned.

"I have ever looked upon the honour